

- **Transport** itself is a **vital sector** keeping our economies afloat. Everyone is well aware of that by now, especially in the light of the current pandemic, which has showed us how **essential it is to ensure supplies of certain goods**.
- However, transport imposes **negative externalities on our planet and the society** - a huge burden on the environment, millions of traffic accidents every year, air and noise pollution, just to name some.
- It is a enormous **task** for us, as political leaders, to **minimise** and eventually **eliminate** these **negative aspects**. At the same time, we need to ensure its **affordability and accessibility** for everyone, especially the most vulnerable groups.
- **Transport must connect. Bridging distances not only between places, but also between people.**
- In Europe, we decided to dedicate an unprecedented amount of investments in the form of the so-called Recovery and **Resilience Facility**. It will help us **kick-start the transformation process. Initial public funding serves as a motivation for the private investments** that will be essential for a successful story in the long-term.
- In Slovakia, we are **changing our approach to transport**. We do our best to contribute to our common goals - **with innovative ideas and future-proof solutions**.
- That is the reason why a large part of our Recovery Plan is dedicated for the **projects of eco-friendly rail and intermodal transport, and infrastructure for the alternative fuels**. We also strive to change the mindset of our citizens by promoting efficient and affordable public transport and cycling.
- One of the tangible evidence that we are seriously committed is our **first hydrogen car** that you can already see in **Slovak Pavilion at EXPO 2020 in Dubai**, where I cordially invite you.
- Thank you.